

LUKAS, NACE, GUTIERREZ & SACHS
CHARTERED

1111 NINETEENTH STREET, N.W.
SUITE 1200
WASHINGTON, DC 20036
(202) 857-3500

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL
(202) 828-9475

April 22, 2004

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Madam Secretary:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, we hereby provide you with notice of an oral *ex parte* presentation in connection with the above-captioned proceeding.

On Wednesday, April 21, 2004, undersigned counsel met with Anita Cheng, and Thomas Buckley of the Wireline Competition Bureau to discuss a number of issues currently being considered by the Commission and the Joint Board. No materials were distributed at the meeting.

In our meeting, we discussed the petition of Highland Cellular, Inc. for ETC designation in the Commonwealth of Virginia, specifically, whether the Commission's decision is competitively neutral and consistent with longstanding and established law. We also discussed the status of pending petitions for ETC status filed by Guam Cellular and Paging and Smith Bagley, Inc.

Hon. Marlene Dortch
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We trust that you will find this information to be useful. Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact undersigned counsel directly.

Sincerely,

/s/
David LaFuria

cc: Anita Cheng, Esq.
Thomas Buckley, Esq.